

REMARKS

Summary

The title, the abstract, and Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to overcome formal objections thereto, independent Claim 1 has been amended to overcome a substantive rejection, independent Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice, and Claim 5 has been redrafted in independent form in a manner similar to Claim 1. Therefore, the application is now in allowable form.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5 are pending, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent. Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended to provide an antecedent basis for the term “electrophotographic photosensitive drum” to overcome a formal objection thereto, and Claim 2 has been amended to provide an antecedent basis for “said periphery” to overcome a formal objection thereto. In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to overcome substantive rejections and to improve its form. Claims 2-5 also have been amended to improve their form for reasons unrelated to patentability. Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 5 is found at least at page 15, line 20, through page 17, line 6 of the specification.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that Claims 5/1, 5/2, 6/5/1, and 6/5/2 contain allowable subject matter.

Title Objection

The title has been objected to because it is allegedly not descriptive of the claimed invention. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, Applicant has herein amended the title of the invention so that it is even more clearly indicative of the claimed invention.

Abstract Objection

The Examiner objects to the Abstract because of its length. In response, Applicant has shortened the Abstract so that it is within the required length.

Formal Claim Objections

Claims 1-7 are objected to for minor informalities in Claims 1, 2, and 7. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objections, Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice and Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to address the points raised by the Examiner, thereby rendering the objections moot.

Specification Amendments

Applicant has amended the specification to improve its form.

Drawing Amendments

Applicant has amended Figures 9 and 12 to change “11g” to --11z--, because reference characters “11g” were previously used to denote double sided tape in Figure 3, as discussed at page

11, line 13 of the specification. In addition, the specification has been amended to change “11g” to --11z--, at: page 24, line 11; page 25, line 7; page 26, line 12; page 27, line 19; and page 28, line 19. and has submitted corrected formal drawings of these figures.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by the publication to Kubota (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0223772). Claims 1-4 and 7 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by the publication to Sato et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0131790).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claim 1 has been amended. Applicant submits that as amended Claim 1 is allowable for the following reason.

Amended Claim 1 relates to a process cartridge detachably attachable to a main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus. The process cartridge comprises an electrophotographic photosensitive drum, a first unit supporting the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, a developing roller configured and positioned to develop, with a developer, an electrostatic latent image formed on the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, a second unit supporting the developing roller and coupled to the first unit, an optical path provided between the first unit and the second unit and configured and positioned to pass light emitted from the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus in order to expose the electrophotographic photosensitive drum to the light, a drum shutter movable between a protecting position for protecting the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and a retracting position retracted from the

protecting position, a supported portion provided in the drum shutter, a supporting portion configured and positioned to support the supported portion in order to move the drum shutter between the protecting position and the retracting position, and an open portion.

The supporting portion is positioned outside the optical path in a longitudinal direction of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum and is positioned between the first unit and the second unit when the process cartridge is viewed from a direction along the longitudinal direction.

The open portion is provided in the supporting portion to mount the supported portion to the supporting portion. The open portion is arranged to pass through the supported portion under a condition that the drum shutter is positioned at a mount position deviated from and between the protecting position and the retracting position before coupling the first unit and the second unit.

When the first unit and the second unit are coupled, the drum shutter is movable between the protecting position and the retracting position and the drum shutter is restricted not to move to the mount position due to contact between the drum shutter and the second unit when the drum shutter is moving toward the mount position from between the protecting position and the retracting position.

By this arrangement, the drum shutter does not detach when the first and second unit are coupled together.

• In contrast, the publications to Kubota and Sato et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest
: at least that when the first unit and the second unit are coupled, the drum shutter is restricted not to
, move to a mount position due to contact between the drum shutter and the second unit when the
drum shutter is moving toward the mount position from between the protecting position and the
retracting position, as recited by amended Claim 1.

For this reason, amended Claim 1 is allowable over these publications. And since Claim 5 has been amended in a similar manner, it is allowable for similar reasons.

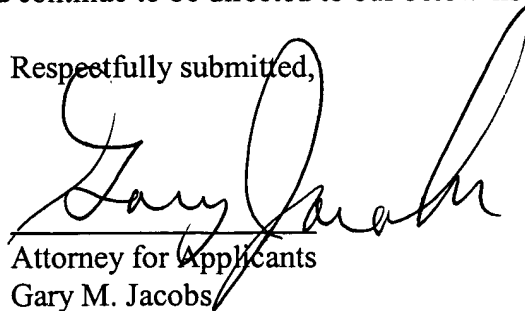
The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for independent Claim 1 and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Jacobs", written over a horizontal line.

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

In the Drawings:

Please amend Figures 9 and 12 as follows:

In Figure 9:

Please change “11g” to --11z--.

In Figure 12:

Please change “11g” to --11z--.